

Recycling guidelines meeting: *Tonight* at 6 p.m.



City news,
features
and
updates

This Week in Huntsville

September 25,
2014

All citizens are invited to attend a curbside recycling guidelines meeting on Thursday, September 25 at the Huntsville Public Library. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the Library's Community Room.

During the meeting, City staff including Public Works Director Carol Reed will provide information on how to participate in curbside recycling according to current policy, and updates will also be presented on the new "Greener Huntsville: Easy Recycling" campaign.

"All eight areas of the City have been integrated into our curbside recycling program since January, and we want to continue to work with all residents to make sure its guidelines are well understood and easy to follow," Reed said. "Simple practices, like rinsing out plastics and cans, flattening cardboard boxes and refraining from bagging recyclables ensure that the items our residents recycle can be processed in an expedient and cost-effective manner.

"With the help of our residents, we can continue to offer a successful curbside recycling program, and we hope this and other community meetings will ensure that outcome."

In addition to recycling program information, Reed will



offer insight and updates on the "Greener Huntsville: Easy Recycling" initiative, including the use of the City's Twitter page to help residents stay on top of their garbage and recycling dates.

"By providing how-to guides, tips and reminders about curbside recycling on our City's existing Twitter page, our hope is to make recycling a quick and convenient part of our citizens' daily lives," Reed said. "We plan to use Twitter to remind people to put their blue or green carts at the street's edge both at the right time and on the right day, and also to provide new and fun ways to take part in curbside recycling."

For more information, contact Esther Herklotz, Solid Waste Superintendent, at (936) 294-5724.

State of the City address

Tuesday, 10/21

Hosted by the Huntsville-Walker
County Chamber of Commerce

Join the City Council and City Manager Matt Benoit and representatives from each City department at the 2014 State of the City address, hosted by the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce.

The address will include information about the City Council's Strategic Plan, current City initiatives and potential developments.

The event will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Walker County Storm Shelter.



2014 Walker County Heart Walk

Saturday, 9/27 at SHSU Bowers Stadium

It's not too late to get your team registered for the 2014 Walker County Heart Walk, an effort to raise community and financial support for the American Heart Association.

Join Event Host Shannon Brown - Huntsville Memorial Hospital CEO - and Event Chairmen Dana Hoyt - Sam Houston State University President, Texas Department of Criminal Justice Executive Director Brad Livingston, Walker County Judge Danny Pierce and Mayor Mac Woodward at SHSU Bowers Stadium beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 27.

Visit www.walkercountyheartwalk.org to register your team, track fundraising efforts and learn more about cardiovascular disease and stroke, two leading causes of death in America.

For more information about the Heart Walk, contact Karen Bilsing at (936) 291-5499.

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2014 National Night Out - Tuesday, October 7

Event to include gathering in Target parking lot, neighborhood parades

The 2014 National Night Out event has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, and the Huntsville Police Department has expanded the time and scope of the event to encourage additional citizen participation.

According to HPD Officers Kenneth Posey and Mark Jenkins, the event will include a centralized presence in the Academy and Target parking lot as well as several neighborhood parades.

"The National Night Out event is an annual opportunity for the community to get to know the law enforcement agencies serving Huntsville, and we are doing even more this year to make the event accessible to all residents," Jenkins said. "The event will kick off at 4 p.m. in the Academy and Target parking lots, and the agencies and businesses represented there will stay until 7 p.m. – this will allow those getting off work at 5 p.m. plenty of time to enjoy the event."

Posey said the event will include representatives not only from HPD, but also from the Huntsville Fire Department, the Walker County Sheriff's Office, Walker County EMS, the Department of Public Safety, the Sam Houston State University Police Department, the Texas Forest Service and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

The event will also include representatives from the SAAFE House, Crossfit Stars and Bars and a pet adoption station sponsored by PetCo and the Rita B. Huff Animal Shelter.

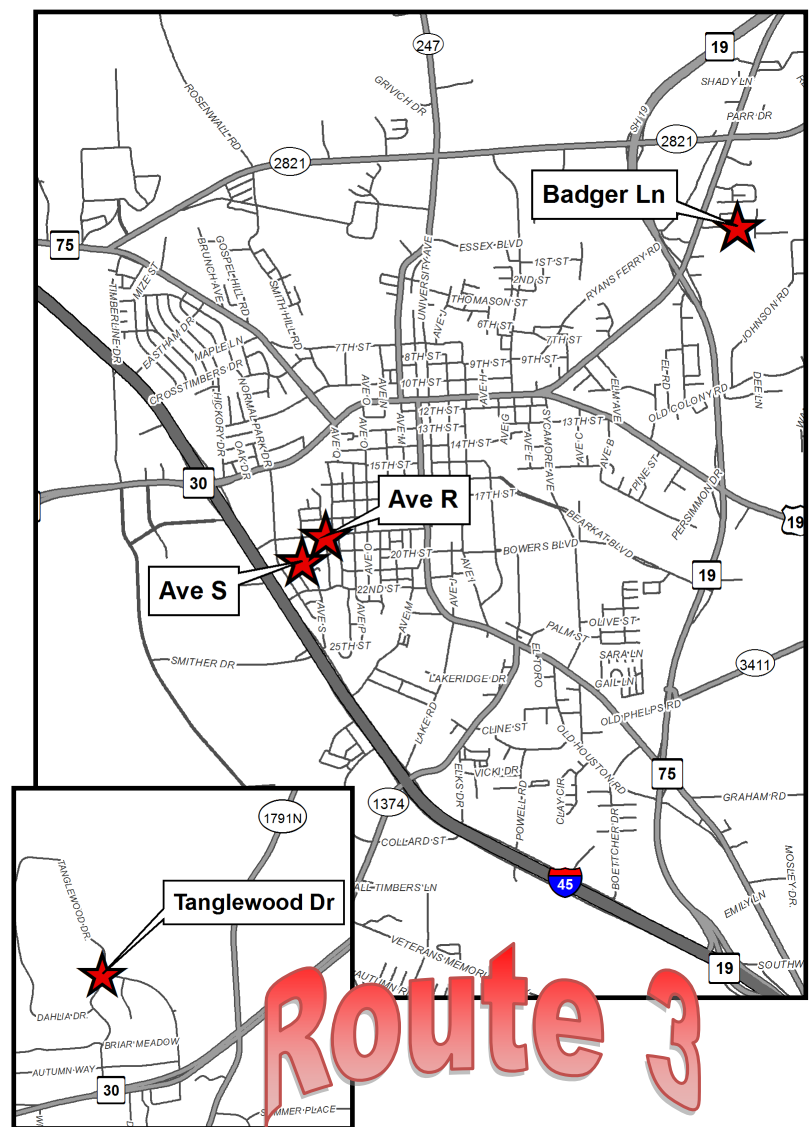
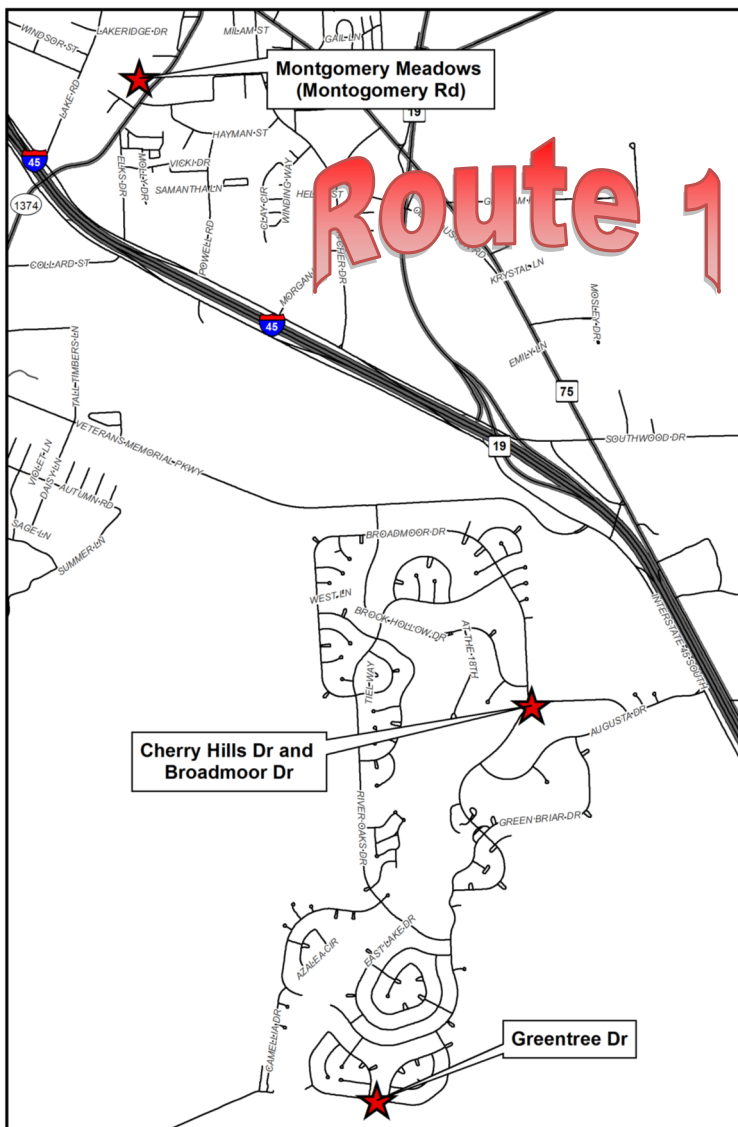
In addition to the gathering at Target, three caravans of law enforcement representatives will drive several locations in the Huntsville area to meet members of the public and encourage the formation of new neighborhood watch chapters.

"We will commence three neighborhood parades at about 5:30 p.m.," Jenkins said. "Route one will go through Montgomery Meadows and three areas of Elkins Lake; route two will include Magnolia Way, Chimney Rock, Smith Hill and the Villages of Huntsville; and route three will include Avenue R, Avenue S, Badger Lane and Tanglewood.

"We will have a detective or an officer stationed at each of the stops on the parade routes in order to meet local residents and answer questions. Whether citizens choose to come spend time at the community event at Target or say hello during one of the parades, we just hope everyone will take this opportunity to communicate with a member of law enforcement face to face, ask any questions they have and get to know their neighbors."

Food and beverages will be provided during the event and additional event features will be publicized as information becomes available.

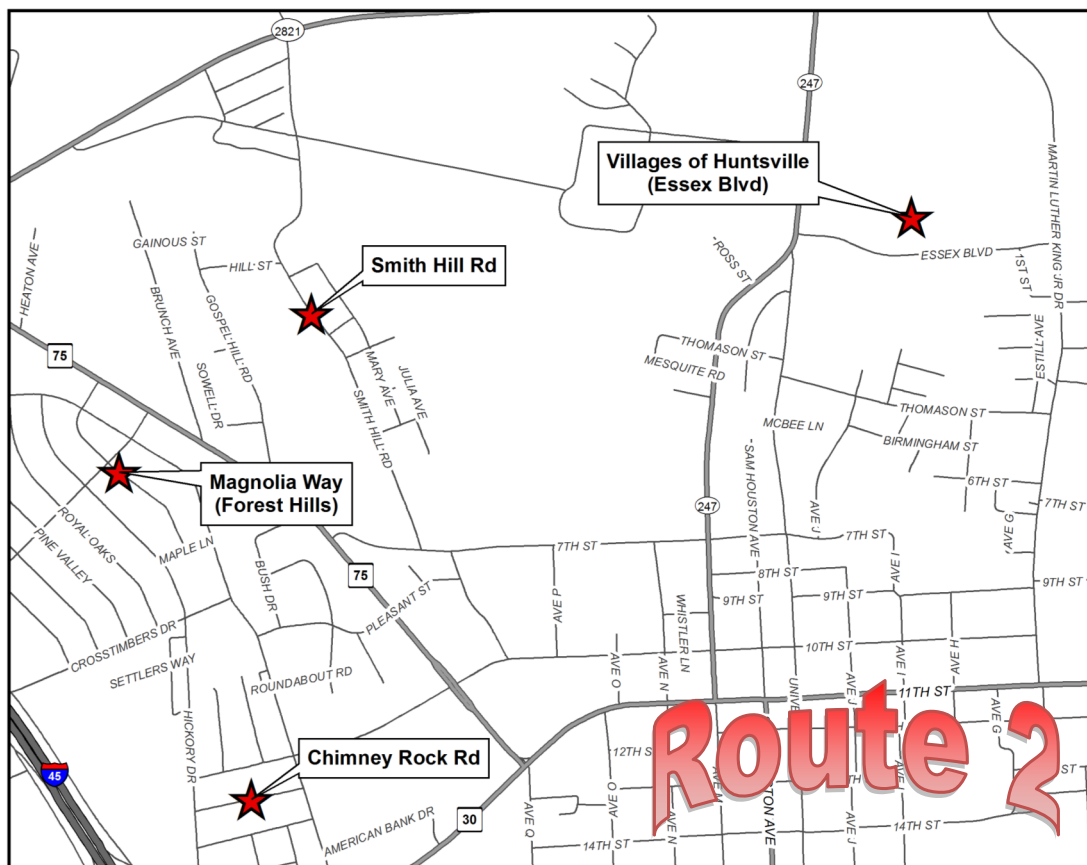
For more information, contact HPD at [\(936\) 291-5480](tel:936-291-5480).



NNO Parade Routes

Use the maps provided here to find the National Night Out parade route closest to your home!

Residents are encouraged to take part in the parades, meet their neighbors and address any questions to law enforcement representatives.



November 4, 2014 election information

Deadline to register to vote, make name/address changes - October 6

The November 4 Regular Election is fast approaching, and the deadline to register to vote or make any changes to name or address information is October 6. Early voting for the November election will be conducted from October 20 through 31.

According to Diana McRae, Walker County Election Officer, citizens may check and update their registrations by logging on to www.VoteTexas.gov or by calling the Voter Registration Office at (936) 436-4959.

"By preparing now, voters can help make sure voting goes smoothly when it comes time for the election," said McRae. "As photo identification is now required for voting in person, we also hope to use the coming weeks to make sure our voters understand the ID requirements and have all the information they need to cast their ballots."

Election officials would like to remind voters to bring one of the approved forms of photo ID to vote in the election. An out-of-state driver's license, student identification card, employee identification card or the voter registration card (unless an exemption applies) will not be accepted to vote in Texas.

A voter will be required to show one of the following forms of photo identification at the polling location before the voter will be permitted to cast a vote:

(1) Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS); (2) Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS; (3) Texas personal identification card issued by DPS; (4) Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS; (5) United States military identification card containing the person's photograph; (6) United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph; (7) United States passport.

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before being presented at the polling place. Visit www.VoteTexas.gov for more information about voting in Texas and the new photo ID requirements.

This photo ID requirement is for voters casting a ballot in person, not by mail. Voters age 65 and older may vote by mail.

Election information

The November 4 ballot will include City races for four at-Large City Council positions, county and state offices, and other potential items for consideration from Walker County, the Huntsville Independent School District and other entities.

McRae said sample ballots will be available within two weeks and available for viewing both at the Walker County Annex, located at 1301 Sam Houston Avenue, Suite 101, and on the Walker County Web site.

Early voting will be held from October 20-31 at the Walker County Annex from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Extended hours will be offered on Tuesday, October 21 and Tuesday, October 28, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and weekend voting will be offered on Saturday, October 25 and Sunday, October 26 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information on the November 4 election, visit <http://www.co.walker.tx.us/> and select the "Current Elections" tab.

Information is also available on the City's Web site, www.huntsvilletx.gov. To reach the Elections page, scroll over "City Government," then "City Secretary" and select "Elections."

Director reflects on 15 years with City of Huntsville

Joseph Wiggs discusses growth in Parks and Leisure Department, current efforts

After 15 years with the City of Huntsville, Joseph Wiggs has moved up from a seasonal parks crew laborer to the director of his department. Transitioning into a full-time position, becoming a crew leader and being exposed to different sets of responsibilities, Wiggs had the opportunity to get to know each facet of the Parks and Leisure Services department through personal experience. During that time, his love of working with the community and serving local youth has remained a pivotal motivator.

How did you get your start with the City of Huntsville?

"After serving in the Marine Corps and working in California as a recreation center supervisor, I started with the City in 1999 as a seasonal laborer on one of our parks crews. I worked for one year then moved from seasonal to full-time, and I was named Employee of the Year soon after," Wiggs said. "From that point, I worked another three years and became a crew leader, given the responsibility of supervising a crew of six employees. I was again honored as Supervisor of the Year.

"I remained a crew leader, switching from a parks focus to maintaining all of the athletic fields in Huntsville. This experience brought me back to my element of coaching, working in athletics and being around kids, and I enjoyed it until 2008, when I was made the Operations and Contracts Manager for the City. This gave me even more of an opportunity to get to know the community as the position required communicating with local sports organizations on the use of City facilities.

"Finally, in 2010, I was promoted to Parks Superintendent, which allowed me to work directly with then-Director Matt Lumpkins and learn more about the administrative side of the department. I served in this capacity until June 2014, when I was promoted to the Director of Parks and Leisure Services."

What is your greatest strength as a director?

"My employees – they are the ultimate staff. You could not want, by any means, a better group of people to work with, from the newest guy here to our most senior staff member, John Agey. Everyone in this department, from the Huntsville Public Library to the Huntsville Aquatic Center can call on the other for support, and that's what makes us strong," Wiggs said.

What motivates you to work in Parks and Leisure?

"I truly enjoy working with the community and with its young people. When I was growing up, I was fortunate enough to be in an area where the older gentlemen mentored us to keep us on the right path," Wiggs said. "Today, I see so many of our young people that don't have those figures in their lives to go to, so I like to do as much as I can to provide that kind of environment and support."

What are some of the community partnerships your department is a part of?

"One of my goals as a director was getting our department more involved with other organizations, and the Huntsville State Park has been one of our biggest partners. Because of our Outdoor Explorer program, we as the City are able to bring residents out to the park to enjoy hiking, biking and water sports, and that has been a big bonus for us. The park's administration has really been there for us any time we've needed them, and having that resource really allows us to expand the services we offer," Wiggs said. "We are also in the process of starting a summer program for physically challenged youth. Through a partnership with the Sam Houston State University ACE Program, led by Dr. Joyce McCauley, we hope to have the program put together by next year, and we're very excited about what a service like that could do for the community."

Joseph Wiggs is a Huntsville Leadership Institute graduate and past board member. He is also affiliated with the National Recreation and Parks Association, Fidelity Lodge #221, Texas Amateur Athletic Federation, and the Texas Recreation and Parks Society.



Housing program yields repaired home

Thanks to the Houston Galveston Area Council's Hurricane Ike Disaster Recovery Program, Huntsville resident Opal Archie's home repairs to damages sustained during the 2008 storm. Pictured from left are HGAC representatives Zelia Brown, Brandi Davis and Melony Hawkins, as well as City Council members Joe Rodriguez, Andy Brauning, Mayor Mac Woodward and Council member Joe Emmett. The front row includes Linda Mitchell, Gloria Turner and homeowner Opal Archie.

The group took part in a special ribbon cutting ceremony in September.

Photo by Lindsey Owings, City of Huntsville

